

individuals, the young children sent back to be further abused. And it happens...if it happens once it happens too often, but it happens time and again in this state. We have to stop this cycle. We have to stop this incredible intolerable situation from continuing. I don't know that we have all the solutions obviously in this bill, as I said, but we certainly go a long way from where we are right now in helping the problem. The introduction of the bill, LB 886, this year with Senator Schmit, and then last year I had another piece of legislation very similar, indicated the frustrations with the county attorneys and the county attorney system not prosecuting, not following through, not helping these abused children. And we found that that wasn't, of course, universal. Every county did not have this problem. But much of the...many of the counties had some difficulty. It wasn't always their fault, it was a situation where we have underpaid, overworked county attorneys. They don't have the training, they don't have the salaries to put the time in, and they don't have the background in this area. And we found that they simply were unable to respond to this particular problem. And, frankly, they're having a difficulty responding to many other problems as well. So, we were suggesting the Attorney General take over this responsibility, have a special group of attorneys with the expertise and ability to deal with these cases. We found, of course, the county attorneys do not want to give up that authority directly to the Attorney General, and we also found that they were probably right, that giving all this authority just to one individual in the whole state may be too much of a delegation of authority to one individual. So, we came up with a compromise that I feel very, very good about. County attorneys will still have the front-line prosecution responsibility. They'll still be there to turn to, and hopefully they will respond with the better training and the assistance through the Crimes Against Children Fund that will bring in expert witnesses, that we will be able to have support from the Attorney General for these county attorneys to do the job that they are supposed to be doing in this area. But, if they should fail us still, if, despite the improvements in the system that I just outlined fail, the Attorney General would still be able to be contacted by individuals interested in a particular case, as in the one I just mentioned, or any other case where they feel that an individual has been abused, and the individual perpetrating that abuse was not prosecuted, they can go to the Attorney General. The Attorney General will have the responsibility, will have the authority, will have the staffing,...